IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 2, line 1, delete "characterized by the fact that" and substitute –wherein–.

Claim 3. (Amended) The method [in one of the preceding Claims, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the surface to be coated is arranged face up in the dispersion bath.

Claim 4. (Amended) The method [in one of the preceding Claims, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a dispersion bath with boron carbide is used.

Claim 5. (Amended) The method [in one of the preceding Claims, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a dispersion bath with boron in elemental form is used.

Claim 6. (Amended) The method [in one of the preceding Claims, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the coating is formed chemically.

Claim 7. (Amended) The method [in one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the coating is formed electrolytically.

Claim 8. (Amended) The method [in one of the preceding Claims, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a coating 350 to 500 μm thick is produced.

Claim 9. (Amended) The method [in one of the preceding Claims, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein boron or boron carbide with more than 20% by volume is embedded in the nickel matrix.

Claim 10. (Amended) The method [in one of the preceding Claims, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein boron or boron carbide with more than 40% by volume is embedded in the nickel matrix.

Claim 11. (Amended) The method [in one of the preceding Claims, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the dispersion bath is mixed, at least from time to time, during the coating process.

Claim 12. (Amended) The method [in one of the preceding Claims, characterized by the fact that] as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the method is carried out in a glass tub.

Claim 13. (Amended) A shielding element produced by [the method in at least one the preceding Claims,] producing a coating for the absorption of neutrons created in a nuclear reaction of radioactive materials, where at least part of a shielding element composed of a basic material is provided on a surface predetermined for it with a boron-nickel coating in a dispersion bath containing boron, and during the coating process, at least from time to time, a relative movement is produced between the surface to be coated and the dispersion bath, wherein the shielding element is [characterized by the fact that it is] composed of an inorganic basic material with a boron/nickel coating on top, where the coating contains more than 20% boron or boron carbide by volume.

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of the above-identified amendments which, in part, reduce multiple dependencies and conform the claims to U.S. practice. No new matter is being introduced by this Amendment as antecedent support is set forth in the specification and the original claims.

Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.